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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,567	11/28/2003	Miki Sasaki	OKI 393	4992
23995	7590	03/07/2007		
RABIN & Berdo, PC 1101 14TH STREET, NW SUITE 500 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2165	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/722,567		SASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Neveen Abel-Jalil		2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/27/2006 & 12/18/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to Amendments filed on Septmebr-27-2006, and December 18, 2006, claim 2 has been cancelled, therefore, claims 1, 3-6 are presently pending in the application.

2. Applicant's amendments has overcome the previous claim objections, specification objection, and rejections under 35 USC 101, and 112, second paragraph.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 3-6 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 6, recite "for bestowing" which is intended use, never actually takes place, therefore renders any recitation claimed after not be given patentable weight. Claims should be amended to recite more direct and positive language such as "to", "which", "that", or "conditions bestowing". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 1, line 3, recite the optional inputting a document "OR" a numerical expression, which suggest that either option can be selected. Thus, if option A is selected, then, option B never has to take place. Making any recitation later appearing in the claims being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicant appears to interchangeably use the inputted "document" and the "numerical expression" in which case the "OR" should be change to "AND".

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For example, line 16, should recite "the inputted document or numerical expression" instead of simply stating "from the document after". Similarly, line 20 carries the same language. Correction is required. Dependent claims 3-6 carry the same deficiency.

Claim 1 simply recite "document" while claim 4 recite "any document" is this a di

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the alignment" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4, line 20, recite "it" which is vague and indefinite for failure to point what is actually being claimed. It's not clear to the Examiner what is being referenced by the "it". Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,523,025 B1).

As to claim 1, Hashimoto et al. teaches a numerical information retrieving device for retrieving numerical information in a natural language, comprising:

input means for inputting a document to be retrieved or a numerical expression to be retrieved (See Figure 24);

an attribute information dictionary which stores therein attribute names indicative of attributes, and conditions for bestowing the attributes (See column 4, lines 59-67);

attribute bestowal means for bestowing an attribute on the inputted document or numerical expression by referring to said attribute information dictionary (See column 5, lines 6-20);

a conversion information dictionary which stores attribute names indicative of attributes, non-converted character strings, and converted character strings therein (See column 5, lines 10-16, and see column 9, lines 11-13);

numerical conversion means for converting a numerical value of a part of the document or numerical expression as is endowed with the attribute, from a non-converted character string into a converted character string by referring to the conversion information dictionary, to convert the numerical value of the part endowed with the

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attribute into said numerical information in a natural language (See column 14, lines 26-29);

extraction means for extracting a specific attribute part as a retrieval keyword from the document after the attribute bestowal conversion (See column 6, lines 26-38);

a document database which stores document data therein (See column 5, lines 31-35); and

document storage and retrieval means for storing the document after the attribute bestowal conversion, the inputted original document, and the extracted retrieval keyword in said document database (See column 4, lines 21-29).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 3-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, and 3-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. For list of Cited references see PTO-Form 892.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Neveen Abel-Jalil
March 3, 2007